

[The task] An object of the invention resides in eliminating the disadvantages of the prior art and, especially, [to complete] in completing the structure of security elements for documents with further security elements and to propose apparatus for examining such security elements and a novel method of using security elements and apparatus which make it substantially more complicated, if not impossible, from the functioning of examination methods and apparatus to make conclusions in respect of the security elements in order to produce counterfeits so similar to their originals that they cannot be detected by the examining apparatus.

Amend the Paragraph beginning at line 9, page 6 as follows:

A further [task] object of the invention is to propose optically effective diffraction security elements and characteristics or OVD's which may be accurately examined quickly, independently of personal assistance and with little effort. The related apparatus for examining security characteristics are to be used in high speed document processing machines as well as in hand-held examination devices. Furthermore is it a task of the invention to fashion a plurality of the devices in accordance with the invention in such a manner that they examine a defined number of several security elements or characteristics provided on a document with the number of security elements differing between the devices. The purpose of this task is to provide different examination techniques in keeping with the possible expense and the security elements which can be examined.

Page 6, line 22: delete;

line 23: insert --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.--;

page 12, 4: insert --DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL DRAWINGS.--;

Amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 on page 12 as follows:

The novel features which are considered to be characteristic of the invention are

Application No.: 09/485,750

set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, in respect of its structure, construction and lay-out as well as manufacturing techniques, together with other objects and advantages thereof, will be best understood from the following description of preferred embodiments when read with reference to the appended drawings, in which:

Page 12, line 30: insert --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS.--;

Amend the paragraph beginning at line 31 on page 13 as follows:

Fig. 5 schematically depicts a document with [several] two different security characteristics including strip-shaped metallized zones 7, strip-shaped insulating zones 8. The deliberate combination results in further coding. This leads to increased examination safety.

Page 20, line 1: change "Patent Claims" to --What is claimed is:--;

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-17 as follows and cancel claim 18:

1. (Amended) [Structure] A structure of optically effective diffraction security elements with a metallic reflection layer, **[characterized by]** comprising a target-oriented electric code of data by additionally applied [[page 8, lines 7-10]] beam, grid, bow and/or circularly shaped electrically conductive structures with steep edges towards adjacent non-metallized structures in different planes [[DE 197 34 855]], the line thickness of the smallest electrically conductive structure which may be examined being less than or equal to 5 mm and non-zero.